10-23
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. A2823

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 1954

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371-2

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/superintendentso00uns_myn

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the June 1954 Monthly Narrative Report
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Rainy, 3.62". Wind 24th damaged weather house.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers to Bozeman, Teton & met Lewis & Birth at South Entrance. Chapman to Billings training Indian firefighters. Milligan to Missoula training smokejumpers. McMullin to Idaho for surplus. Mattson to Teton. Yell.-Teton Assn. meeting. Meeting with State & Federal men re elk transplanting. Meeting Missouri Basin group at Lake. Meeting re electrical power. St. Paul Choral Club concert. Western Design & Constr. office. 6-day week. Gates open 6 am - 10 pm. New fees. Exams. Somerville presented cash award for suggestion. Stitt meritorious award for rescue when at Teton. Brown away due death of aunt.	1-3
INSPECTIONS:	Official visitors listed.	3-5
PUBLICITY:	Story to AP on rescue at Lake. 326,750 broadsides.	5
MAINTENANCE:	Rain hampered operations. Red Lodge road opened 10th but closed daily until 20th. Log cribs slid out & replaced Virginia Cascades. 40-50 ton rock slid onto road at Gibbon. Progress on roads, etc.	5
CONSTRUCTION:	Progress on Morris-Canyon project, Canyon area roads & parking areas, & Canyon campground roads project. Other projects listed. Electrical generators & housing being installed Old Faithful & Lake. Bids opened 9 comfort stations & pumphouse, Canyon, but no award yet.	6
CONCESSIONERS:	Doctors in, nurse at Fishing Bridge, hospital open. Nichols in. Opening dates listed. Rates approved steam heated cabins O.F. Lodge and laundromat service. "Savage Specials" in.	7
RELIGIOUS SERVICES:	Church services. Student Ministry program. Meetings re. student ministry; to have service in winter.	7-8
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Signs. Amphitheaters poor condition. Public address units. Most interpretive services going.	8

		Page
MUSEUMS:	Museums operated. Revision Old Faithful Museum. Obsidian Cliff exhibit completed.	8
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Three-toed woodpecker. Dr. Dorf on fossil plant study. Horned toad near West Gate.	8-9
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	Librarian & clerk. Tilden book on parks; copies given employees. Reprint animal booklet.	9
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	Training concessioner employees, rangers & naturalists, fire control aids, blister rust, etc. Session on changed entrance fees.	9-10
TRAVEL:	231,398 in June, 6.7% decrease. 2.6% decrease season to date. Rail & bus slight increase. North & West increase for season to date.	10
VISITORS:	Special visitors listed.	10
RANGER SERVICE:	Shortage seasonal rangers. Activities listed.	11
WILDLIFE & FISH: BEARS:	3 bear injuries, 5 damages, black bear killed in fight, 1 grizzly killed for control. Grizzly & 3 cubs marooned on Stevenson Island, moved to mainland.	11
FISH PLANTING:	Plants listed. Fish marked by F. & W. Service.	11
FISHING:	Yellowstone & Squaw Lakes opened 15th.	12
ELK:	Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. tagged elk Lamar area.	12
RANGE:	Kittams' observations range conditions.	12
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Chapman to Billings training Indian firefighters. Milligan to Missoula smokejumper training. Fire control aids trained and entered on duty. Participation in "Project Skyfire", observations at Washburn.	12
BUILDING FIRES:	Continued building fire hazard inspections.	13
TRAILS:	Money allotted. Men on duty. Signs being distributed. Table saw obtained.	13
GROUNDS:	Rain hampered mowing but helped grass.	13
BLISTER RUST:	Men on and trained. Gynn in on training, etc. Crews to Canyon 19th & moving to Carnelian Creek 1st.	13
RANCH & CORRAL:	Most horses & mules delivered. Meadow grass good.	14

		Page
WOOD UTILIZATION:	Y. P. Co. wood contractor cutting in Fishing Bridge campground clearing.	14
ACCIDENTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY:	26 auto accidents, 3 causing injuries & 5 minor damage. Group marooned at Flat Mountain Arm in Yell. Lake rescued.	14
DEATHS:	LeClaire Flint, former editor, Livingston Enterprise, & Walter Styers, carpenter for Haynes Inc., died.	14
BIRTHS:	Son born to Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Winkle. Son stillborn to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Moffat, visitors at Mammoth Hospital.	15
PERSONNEL:	Promotions David Condon, Philip Wohlbrandt, Otto Brown, Ellis Gabbert, Willis Stanton, Ms. Proper & James French due reallocation. Mattson promotion & transferred to Yell. rolls. Andrew Alley, Property Clerk, resigned; Edward Schultz promoted. Charles Moore promoted to Payroll Supervisor. Melvin Thuring, Engineer, to Wind Cave; Richard Ketcham & John Schmid arrived as Engineers; transfers to be July 1. Kittams on military leave. Seasonal appointments. Student Asst. Architects & Engineer employed by Western Design & Constr. for Yellowstone.	15-16
MISCELLANEOUS:	FEU and AFGE meetings.	16

A2823

Report 1ml

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

FFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 8, 1954

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for June 1954

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of June 1954:

Weather Conditions. The weather for June was quite different from the months of June in past years. Rain and snow fell during nineteen days of the month, giving a total precipitation for the month of 3.62 inches at Mammoth headquarters. The temperatures there ranged from a low of 26 degrees on June 29 to a high of 85 degrees on the 23rd, and the average maximum temperature was 63 degrees and the average minimum 38 degrees. On June 24, this area received very high winds in the afternoon, which blew the weather station over, causing considerable damage to the weather station house.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers went to the Bozeman library June 8 on research in connection with his project on the legislative history of the areas of the National Park system. On the 20th he made a trip to Grand Teton National Park and on the 23rd went to the South Entrance to meet Assistant Secretary of the Interior Lewis and Director Wirth.

Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman went to Billings June 1 to participate in a training program for Indian firefighters for possible use in the parks. He returned on the 4th.

Smokejumper Squad Leader Milligan left June 1 for Missoula to help train smokejumpers and will remain there until July 4.

Electrical Supervisor McMullin went to Bechler River Ranger Station and Idaho Falls and Arco, Idaho, June 13, picking up surplus property at Idaho Falls and Arco, returning the 14th.

Park Landscape Architect Mattson left June 18 for Teton, returning on the 22nd.

The Yellowstone-Teton Association, which was organized at a meeting in the park last summer to promote road and other improvements

in the parks, held a meeting at Old Faithful Lodge on June 7. Officials elected were Rev. Paul D. McCleave, Bozeman, President; H. P. Christensen, Thermopolis, Wyoming, Vice President; Charles Stark, Idaho Falls, Secretary; and Irving Woodmansee, Roxburg, Idaho, Treasurer.

On June 9 Superintendent Rogers and other park officials met with Archie O'Claire, Robert Cooney, Gene Sherman and Joe Gaab of the Montana Fish and Game Department, Fred Johnson, Forest Service, and Max Bridge, Bureau of Land Management, in the Superintendent's office to prepare a joint statement covering transplanting of elk from the park.

The seventy-fourth meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee was held at the Lake Hotel June 24 and 25. Assistant Secretary Orme Lewis, Director Wirth, Regional Director Baker, Brigadier General W. E. Potter, Division Engineer of the Corps of Engineers, Omaha, Nebraska, Governors Sigurd Anderson of South Dakota, Norman Brunsdale of North Dakota and Hugo Aronson of Montana and a number of other prominent government and state officials were in attendance. The group was entertained with a showing of a park movie and talk by Park Naturalist Condon on the evening of the 24th and some members were conducted on a tour of the Lower Loop of the park on the morning of the 25th.

A meeting was held June 30 in the office of the Superintendent to discuss the possibilities of obtaining electrical power from some source other than the Government for supplying energy to developed areas in the park. Those in attendance were Assistant Secretary Lewis, Director Wirth, Regional Director Baker, W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, Assistant to Vice President German of the Montana Power Company, Helena, Superintendent Rogers and Assistant Superintendent Hamilton.

The St. Paul Choral Club presented a concert at the Old Faithful Lodge June 10. This group has given similar programs for several years which have been enjoyed by a large number of visitors and employees.

The Western Office of the Division of Design and Construction for the National Park Service was established June 1 at 1000 Geary Street, San Francisco, California. Sanford Hill is Chief of this division, which includes Yellowstone Park.

A six-day work-week was started June 13 for seasonal wage board employees and will continue until about September 4.

The park entrance stations were open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. effective June 25.

The new entrance fee system was approved by the Secretary of the Interior on June 16 and went into effect the same day, which included the discontinuance of the Yellowstone-Grand Teton joint permits and increase in house trailer fees for Yellowstone from $1 for 15-day permit and $2 for season to $3 for 15-day and $6 for season. The present rates for Yellowstone are $3 for 15-day and $6 annual for automobiles, $3 for 15-day and $6 annual for house trailers, and $1 for 15-day and $2 annual for motorcycles, and those for Teton are $1 for 15-day and $2 annual for automobiles, $1 for 15-day and $2 annual for house trailers, and $1 for 15-day and $2 annual for motorcycles.

The Local Civil Service Board held an examination for Clerk on June 8. Personnel Assistant Proper conducted the examination and there was one competitor. On the 15th a Stenographer-Typist examination was held with two contestants, Mr. Proper conducting the examination.

On June 2, Thomas J. Somerville, Fiscal Accounting Clerk (Cashier), was presented a check for $25 as an award for suggesting the use of heavy craft envelopes for mailing Government gate receipts instead of heavy locked pouches. Presentation was made by Assistant Superintendent Hamilton before the employees of the fiscal office.

Park Ranger Merle E. Stitt was among nine National Park Service employees given meritorious service awards June 29 at a special ceremony in Grand Teton National Park, for the rescue last year of Miss Norma Hart of Lynn, Massachusetts, who sustained a broken back in a climb of Grand Teton, at which time Mr. Stitt was located in that area. Assistant Secretary of the Interior Lewis presented the award with special comment by Director Wirth. Others receiving the award were F. Douglas McLaren, A. Bryan Harry, Robert N. Perkins, Jr., Richard M. Emerson, Ernest J. Boardman, Richard [illegible] Shaw, Hadley R. Roberts and Martin H. Benham of Teton.

Chief Ranger Brown left June 29 for Oakland, California, due to the death of an aunt and expects to be away from the area until July 8.

Inspections. W. E. Bawden, Maintenance Engineer, Montana Highway Department, Helena, and George A. Barrett, Division Maintenance Engineer, Bozeman, in June 2 for conference on Gallatin Road and other approach road matters.

John C. Gynn, Area Leader, Blister Rust Control, U. S. Forest Service, Spokane, in June 2 to assist in training of blister rust crew, out June 10, in again June 21-23 and June 27-29.

Francis R. Roberson and Robert B. Kemp, Architects, Region Two, in June 2 to assist in preparation of working drawings for pilot study developments at west entrance; left June 15 for Omaha.

Yellowstone

Thomas C. Vint, Chief of Design and Construction, Washington Office, arrived June 4 from Grand Teton; left for Idaho Falls June 6.

Richard T. Montgomery, Engineer, Office of Western Design and Construction, San Francisco, arrived June 12 and departed 15th.

Jack S. Barrows, Chief, Division of Fire Research, U. S. Forest Service, Missoula, in June 14 to discuss forest fire matters; out 16th.

Ronald W. Mortimore, Landscape Architect, Region Two, with headquarters to be at San Francisco, assigned for summer to assist Landscape Architect Mattson in preparation of plans and supervision of landscape architectural projects, in June 18.

Orme Lewis, Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Conrad L. Wirth, Director, National Park Service, in South June 23 to attend the meeting of the Missouri River Basin Inter-Agency Committee and confer on other matters; out South 27th.

Howard W. Baker, Regional Director, Region Two, Omaha, in East June 23 and attended MBIAC meeting, out South June 27 and returned from Teton June 30, expecting to leave July 1 for Billings.

Christopher C. Mullady, Regional Counsel, Omaha, in South June 24 to prepare draft for Gallatin road reconstruction and maintenance and possible transfer to the State of Montana; out 27th on return to Teton.

Joseph Jenkins, Electrical Engineer, Western Design and Construction, arrived June 19 to assist in installation of new electrical generators at Old Faithful.

Fred L. Hastings, Engineer, Western Design and Constriction, in West June 24 to be on assignment at Canyon until about August 1.

George W. Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Glacier, in June 23 to represent Glacier at MBIAC meeting; out 27th.

Ben H. Thompson, Chief, Recreation Planning, Washington Office, Louis P. Croft, Chief Recreation Planner, Region Two Office, and Brigadier General W. E. Potter, Division Engineer of the Corps of Engineers, Omaha, in East June 23 to attend meeting of MBIAC and out East 25th.

L. A. Hamilton and R. E. Dalton, Construction and Maintenance Engineers, Bureau of Public Roads, in June 29 to participate with park officials in spring inspection of park roads. They expect to leave July 2.

Daniel F. Burroughs, Recreational Planner, National Park Service, Billings, in Northeast June 30; expects depart July 1 accompanied by Regional Director Baker.

Publicity. On June 29 the Associated Press was furnished a story by telephone on the rescue of a group of blind people accompanied by one person with sight who were marooned at Flat Mountain Arm after their boat motor failed them while fishing in Yellowstone Lake and they were lost in the storm.

A total of 326,750 Yellowstone broadsides remained on hand at the end of the month.

Maintenance. The first half of the month was cold with rain and snow almost daily. Sylvan, Dunraven and Craig Passes were closed by snow several times and required plowing. The Red Lodge-Cooke road was opened on June 10, but new snow and high winds closed it every day until the 20th, when warm weather stopped the drifting and it was possible to keep it open to traffic.

The month of rain and snowy weather was extremely rough on the older sections of roads, causing considerable pot-holing and the development of many weak spots in the road base. The heavy trucking at this time required by the opening of facilities increased the damage even with weight restrictions. All of which indicates the need for a higher standard base to handle the increased heavy traffic.

Two of the old log cribs supporting the road near Virginia Cascades on the Norris to Canyon Cutoff slid out during the month and were replaced. A large boulder of 40 to 50 tons slid onto the road near Gibbon Falls.

Because of the wet weather during the month, not all the special items in the 1954 fiscal year program were completed. This consisted of two miles of half-soling on Route 3. Even with wet weather six and a half miles were reprocessed and half-soled and three miles were seal coated. Realigning the curb rock at Tower Creek bridge, Route 1G, was also completed. Both the rock crushers were operated for about two weeks.

All road camps are filled and in operation. Labor has been plentiful to date, but much delay is caused by the Civil Service operations. Several truck drivers with high grades were not able to pass our simple driver's tests.

In general, the roads are in fair to good condition. Some corduroyed sections are the big problem now. The Gallatin section is a little better than a month ago, but still poor.

Construction. Project 12A, Morris-Canyon Cutoff, grading and surfacing 4.075 miles at east end, Peter Kiewit Sons' Company of Sheridan, Wyoming, contractor.--Additional equipment was moved in, clearing operations continued, some grading started on west end of project, and work well underway on concrete box culvert at Cascade Creek; project about 6% complete. A great deal of moisture is being encountered on the entire section, slowing operations.

Project 1F3, G4, Canyon Area Roads, bituminous surfacing and parking areas, Strong Company of Springville, Utah, contractor.--Work resumed at end of June; project 80% complete.

Canyon Campground Roads, Studer Construction Company of Billings, contractor.--Work was resumed on June 21 with small crew. Two drop inlets were poured and small quantity of binder hauled in. Project about 40% complete.

Other active projects during the month were Account 323.05, Additional Traffic Lanes, West Entrance, 0.2 miles, clearing completed and grading about 90% complete, project 60% complete, and sufficient funds remaining to treat surface with light bituminous treatment; Account 323.17, Reconstruction of Campground Roads and Removal of Stumps, Fishing Bridge, 80% complete; Account 323.18, Miscellaneous Road Improvements, 20% complete, Mammoth Hotel cottage area roads resurfaced; Account 331.04, Pump House for Sewage System, Lake, 90% complete; Account 331.14, Comfort Stations (2), Old Faithful Campground, 60% complete; Account 331.15, West Entrance Checking Station and Utilities Connections, 5% done; Account 332.06, Sewer System for Campground, Old Faithful, 95% complete; Account 332.16, Main Sewer System, Lake, 45% complete; Account 332.17, Water Line Extension, West Thumb Cabin Area, work started and 20% done; Account 333.02, Utilities, Tables, Fireplaces and Comfort Stations, Old Faithful Campground, 96% complete; Account 231.03, Rehabilitate CCC Buildings at Old Faithful for Employees' Quarters, completed; Account 231.04, Remodel Interior of Old Faithful Museum, Job #6, completed.

One of two electric generators secured from the Army is nearly installed at Old Faithful and the building covering it is partially completed. The one for Lake is being mounted on skids in the garage at Mammoth.

Bids were opened June 14 with Cop Construction Company, Billings, as low bidder on construction of nine comfort stations and pump house at Canyon. The bids were forwarded to the Washington Office for review and no award had yet been made at the end of the month.

Concessioners. Dr. John A. Pearson arrived June 1 to take charge of the medical service in the park and remained until June 23 when Dr. Alfred M. Lueck arrived to handle the service. A nurse entered on duty June 1 at Fishing Bridge and the Mammoth Hospital was officially opened June 10.

W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived June 2 for the season. The Old Faithful Lodge cabins opened June 4; Canyon cafeteria, tourist cabins and garage, West Thumb cafeteria and tourist cabins, and Mammoth tourist cabins and garage June 5; Mammoth Hotel cottages and Grill June 11; Old Faithful Lodge dining room and Lake Lodge cabins June 12; boats available for fishing at Yellowstone Lake June 15; Canyon Lodge cabins and dining room, Lake Lodge dining room and Roosevelt Lodge June 17; Old Faithful Inn, Lake Hotel and Canyon Hotel officially opened June 18 although took guests two or three days earlier; saddle horses available at Mammoth, Old Faithful and Canyon June 18; buses started operating first day for 2½ days tour June 21.

On June 9 the Regional Office approved rates for the new steam-heated cabins in connection with Old Faithful Lodge all of which are furnished with either bath or lavatories and toilets. All of these new cabins were being rented by the end of the month.

Rates were approved by that office on the 18th for the laundromat service for the Yellowstone Park Company at Old Faithful and Fishing Bridge tourist cabins. The laundromat at Old Faithful is expected to be in operation during the week of July 4 and that at Fishing Bridge by the latter part of July.

The Union Pacific and Northern Pacific "Savage Specials" bringing concessioner employees to the park arrived at West Yellowstone and Gardiner, respectively, on June 14.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The Yellowstone National Park Chapel was used during the month at the scheduled hours for religious services by the Student Ministry, the Latter-Day Saints, and the Roman Catholics. The Student Ministry program has been using the Chapel regularly since June 13 for scheduled choir practices and Bible discussion groups. The Yellowstone Park Company, through their printer, Joe Bill, printed several hundred posters for placement throughout the park announcing the schedule of church services.

The Reverend Warren M. Ost arrived on June 4 and left June 14. He was here in connection with the program of the Student Ministry in the National Parks which is sponsored by the National Council of Churches. He worked with the student ministers in getting the program for the 1954 season underway. Mr. Bill Henning will function as the minister in charge of the program in the Mammoth area. The first service in the Chapel for the 1954 season was held June 6.

The spring meeting of the local committee on Student Ministry in the National Parks was held in the conference room on the evening of June 11. Chairman Warren Hamilton presided at the meeting. A special meeting of this committee was held on the evening of June 21 for the purpose of determining whether or not a resident minister would be retained in Yellowstone Park for the winter months. A favorable decision was reached and Mr. Bill Henning, it is planned, will be retained as the resident minister here.

The Roman Catholic priests who will be assisting Father Penny of Cody, Wyoming, in conducting the Roman Catholic services during the 1954 season are Reverend Otho Sullivan and Reverend Bernard Helget.

Interpretive Services. Part of the interpretive program for the month was the appropriate signing of features with either informational signs or place name signs.

The amphitheaters at Mammoth and West Thumb are in poor condition and at Mammoth many of the exceedingly rotten logs have been removed from the amphitheater. This project has reduced the seating capacity to about one half of what it was formerly.

Three portable public address units, which have been obtained by the natural history association, were distributed to the field. Two of these have been placed at Old Faithful where they are used on the guided trips and one has been placed at Canyon for use on the Uncle Tom trip through the Canyon. Four new public address units have been placed in the field. These were obtained by the natural history association and have been distributed as follows: Fishing Bridge - one unit, Old Faithful - one unit, Old Faithful Amphitheater - one unit, and Mammoth - one unit.

All interpretive services on the east side of the park were in operation by June 25 except for Tower Fall which did not open its full program until June 30. The major portion of the west side program was going by June 24 and the full program as anticipated for the season will not be functioning until two of the seasonal men report for duty early in July.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. Members of the permanent staff kept the Mammoth Museum open until June 15 when seasonal help became available and took over the museum information desk operation responsibility.

Revision of the Old Faithful Museum began on June 7 and continued throughout the month. The panels for the Obsidian Cliff exhibit were finished and installed on June 19.

Research and Observation. On June 19, a series of interesting pictures were obtained of the three toed woodpecker which is establishing his nest near the naturalist apartments at Old Faithful.

Dr. Erling Dorf, of Princeton University, who has been appointed as a collaborator with the National Park Service, is conducting a research study on fossil plants.

Of unusual interest was the finding of a horned toad by Park Ranger David Beal near his residence at West Yellowstone. This animal is thought to be the first of record of this particular species in Yellowstone Park.

Natural History Association. Mrs. Lucille Wagner began her services as librarian for the season on June 9. Mrs. Alice Quist was employed as clerk for the Association. During early June 500 copies of the paper bound book Our National Parks - What They Mean to You and Me by Freeman Tilden, were received. These have been placed on sale at the information desks. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association presented the paper bound Tilden book to 104 permanent employees on June 4. Eight thousand copies of the Animal Life of Yellowstone reprint, which was prepared by Edwards Brothers, Lithoprinters, were received on June 25.

In-Service Training. Many in-service training activities were carried on during the month to provide training for seasonal National Park Service employees and for employees of the concessioners. On June 9 a special program was given at 8:30 p.m. for the bus drivers in the Canteen. A series of in-service training programs were conducted for the concessioners' employees, at Mammoth on June 15, Canyon on the 16th, Lake on the 17th, Old Faithful the 18th, and Tower Fall the 22nd. These programs were presented at 9:00 p.m. The District Ranger made comments on the regulations and conduct expected from "savages" in the district area, Mr. Child of the Yellowstone Park Company made comments concerning the employees' responsibilities, and Chief Park Naturalist Condon gave them a talk and also familiarized them as much as possible with the natural resources of the park. The Yellowstone Park Company provided an in-service training movie with an appropriate sound track for use in conjunction with the National Park Service "Trip Around the Loop" movie.

A program was prepared and in-service training given new seasonal rangers and naturalists on June 22, 23 and 24. This consisted of one day's lectures and general training in the Canteen and two days' intensive training trip around the loop of the park. Eighteen rangers and five naturalists were the trainees.

The fire control aids reported for duty June 14 and the remainder of the week was devoted to their training before being sent to their stations.

The blister rust control crew was given training the week of June 7 and the trail maintenance crew also received some training when entering on duty.

A conference of entrance station and fiscal division personnel was held on the 14th to work out details for changing the fee system as placed in effect the 16th.

Decrease in Travel. A total of 231,398 persons entered the park this June as compared with 248,039 for June 1953 or a decrease of 6.7%. The total travel for the present season through June was 283,389 as compared with 290,848 visitors for one year ago, or a decrease of 2.6%. Rail and bus travel showed a slight increase, 2,678 for this June as compared with 2,405 last June. Only the North and West entrances showed an increase over season to date as compared to 1953.

Special Visitors. Harry J. Liek, Superintendent of Black Hills Areas, and former Yellowstone employee, who retired May 31, and Mrs. Liek were visitors in the park June 5.

Warren W. Ost, Director, Christian Ministry in the National Parks, National Council of Churches of Christ, New York City, in June 4 to establish the student ministry program in the park for summer; out 14th.

Andy Durkus, Assistant Production Manager, Paramount Pictures Corporation, Hollywood, which company is filming a picture "Blue Horizon" in the Jackson Hole area south of the park, in June 17 in connection with the possibility of making some shots on the Snake River near the South Entrance and at Cave Falls in the Bechler area.

Noble J. Wilt, Chief Auditor, National Park Service, retired, in South June 18 with Mrs. Wilt; out 23rd.

Ferde Grofe, of Santa Monica, California, nationally known composer and conductor and composer of "Grand Canyon Suite" and other famous pieces, and visitor at the Povah Ranch near West Yellowstone, made several trips into the park during the month.

Dr. Erling Dorf, Department of Geology, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, in June 22 to do research work on petrified forest and fossil plants.

Bob Hope, famous radio, television, and motion picture star, and family in East June 24 and out East 25th and fished at Yellowstone Lake.

Governors Sigurd Anderson of South Dakota, Norman Brunsdale of North Dakota and Hugo Aronson of Montana attended the meeting of the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency Committee at Lake June 24 and 25.

Ranger Service. Protection Division activities were somewhat curtailed due to insufficient seasonal park ranger personnel as a result of procedure of obtaining eligibles from Civil Service registers. Activities during the month included operation of checking stations, training seasonal rangers, fire control aids and blister rust and trail crews, checking and barricading roads and assisting tourists due to inclement weather and snow storms, preparing mimeographed material, supplying field stations, entering seasonal personnel on duty including fingerprinting, patrols and law enforcement including preparation of a large number of cases for hearing and caring for prisoners, rescuing grizzlies from Stevenson Island, and locating lost persons.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. BEARS. Three bear injuries, two small puncture wounds and a minor laceration, were reported during June. Five bear damage reports were received during June. One black bear was killed by another black bear in a fight which occurred at Old Faithful. A grizzly bear was shot for control purposes because she was habitually creating a serious hazard to human safety in the Fishing Bridge area.

A mother grizzly bear and her three cubs were reported on Stevenson Island in Yellowstone Lake on June 14 and to remove the danger to fishermen landing on the island and keep the animals from starving they were removed from the island on the 18th and released in the Trout Creek area. The rescue operations consisted of towing a raft to the island, trapping the mother bear, and capturing the cubs which had started swimming away and would probably have been drowned had they not been fished out of the water and placed in garbage cans to be hauled to the mainland. The general belief is that they crossed on the ice when the Lake was still frozen over, or the mother may have reached the island earlier and given birth to the cubs or possibly they swam over.

FISH PLANTING. Fish planted during the month were as follows: 9,456 rainbow yearling in the Madison River, 1,000 rainbow yearling in Feather Lake, 2,000 rainbow yearling in Goose Lake, 10,000 rainbow 4 - 5, 8,840 rainbow yearling, and 36,750 brown 3 - 4 in the Firehole River.

In order to carry on adequate studies in the Madison River drainage, 5,000 No. 3 and 4 brown trout which were planted on June 28 were marked by the Fish and Wildlife Service. This marking consisted of removing dorsal and the right ventral fins.

Of the rainbow trout planted in the Madison drainage, 10,000 of them were also marked by the Fish and Wildlife Service for stream study purposes.

FISHING. The general fishing season was opened May 30 and Yellowstone and Squaw Lakes opened June 15. The Yellowstone River between Lake and Canyon and its tributaries and Riddle, Grebe and Wolf Lakes and the stream connecting Grebe and Wolf Lakes will open July 1 and the tributaries to Yellowstone Lake July 15.

ELK. William Crump, Biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, with a small crew, tagged elk from May 30 to June 12 in the Lamar area to determine drift of Yellowstone elk to Wyoming. They were assisted some by Park Biologist Kittams, Park Naturalist Elmore, Local Cub Scout Pack and by personnel at Lamar where they were headquartered. A total of 91 calves were tagged. The elk had moved up to summer range in early June, earlier than usual, which made tagging difficult because the majority of elk were several miles from the highway and widely scattered.

Range. According to observations of Biologist Kittams, prospects for a good forage crop on most of the winter range are bright since the heavy precipitation during June. The moisture came too late to benefit grass on some of the area below Gardiner. Crested wheat on some study plots near Stevens Creek appears to be entirely dead.

Forest Fire Protection. Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman traveled to Billings on June 1 and met with Custer National Forest and Bureau of Indian Affairs personnel to work out a training program for prospective Indian Crew Bosses. On June 3, 12 Crow and Cheyenne Indians were given Crew Boss training at the Ashland Ranger Station, Ashland, Montana. It is believed that there will be 250 Indians available for fire duty this season in that area.

Smokejumper Squad Leader Milligan left June 1 to spend a month at Missoula training smokejumpers.

The Fire Control Aids reported for work on June 14 and the remainder of that week was devoted to their training before they were sent to their duty stations for the summer.

Yellowstone National Park has been asked by Fire Research of Missoula to participate in "Project Skyfire". This will consist of establishing an additional fire weather station at Mount Washburn and the taking of applicable observations by the lookout. Fire Control Aid Matlack, who is assigned to that point, has attended the training school, held at Priest River by the U. S. Forest Service for the training of the men involved in the study.

Overhead records and Overhead Units were made up for the coming fire season.

Building Fire Protection. Ranger personnel have been making fire hazard inspections of all buildings as fast as time and limited personnel would allow.

Trails. Four hundred dollars were transferred to the trail maintenance account to provide sufficient funds for operation during the month of June.

By the end of the month all eight trail maintenance men had entered on duty. They are doing routine maintenance work in Mammoth, Lamar, Old Faithful and Snake River Districts. During the month all trails in the Tower Fall District were cleared except in the Buffalo Plateau area where heavy snow was encountered. The men working in this district were moved to Old Faithful. Wet, cold weather has hampered trail work considerably and due to the slowness with which the snow has melted in the high country, it will probably be some time yet before maintenance crews can work some sections of the park. In order to accomplish as much as possible during the short seasonal working period, a 48-hour work-week was inaugurated beginning the week of June 13.

Trail signs manufactured this winter by the Protection Division have been distributed to the respective districts except West Yellowstone and Lake.

A 10-inch table saw was procured from surplus and received June 28. It will need some repair but will be a useful addition to the equipment of the trail sign shop.

Grounds. Rainy weather hampered mowing operations on the lawns at Mammoth headquarters but was very beneficial to these grounds which are greener and more pleasant appearing than usual.

Blister Rust Control. Blister rust crews started arriving on June 1 and on June 7 training started in the Mammoth control area.

Due to heavy snow on Mt. Washburn and in the Carnelian Creek drainage, the blister rust crews were loaned to the Engineering Division for use in general clean-up and construction of paths.

Area Leader John C. Gynn was in Yellowstone June 1-10, 21-23, and 28-29 aiding in training and work planning in connection with the project.

The crews were moved to Canyon June 19 and the Carnelian Creek pack camp was made ready for occupancy July 1.

Law Enforcement. Thirty-six cases were tried this month before the U. S. Commissioner of which sixteen were for speeding and seventeen were violations of fishing regulations. These resulted in fines amounting to $675. A more serious case, that of theft by a Government employee, Merril L. Young of Government and private property and forgery, was bound over to Federal Court with $1,000 bail set for one of the minor charges. Mr. Young remains in the Mammoth jail pending bond or further charges which are pending. Charges in this case were made by F.B.I. Agent Mason Melvin.

Ranch and Corral Operations. Horses and mules were shod and transported to all field stations during the month with the exception of those going to Canyon Ranger Station, which will be delivered as soon as the pasture is ready for them.

The newly seeded portions of meadows at the Lamar Unit are showing green and all indications are for a good stand of meadow grass.

Wood Utilization. Mr. Oscar Roseborough, wood contractor for Yellowstone Park Company, started cutting wood at the Fishing Bridge Campground on June 7 and has completed the clearing of this campground. Mr. Roseborough will move his camp to Canyon and will salvage wood from the clearing for the new road at that location.

Accidents and Public Safety. Twenty-six automobile accidents were recorded this month, of which three resulted in personal injuries and seven caused only minor damage. Of these probably the most serious was the accident on the 12th in which National Cash Register Agents James Reed (driver) and J. L. Roberts were injured. Roberts received an especially bad cut on the head. The accident occurred at the Chocolate Pots two and a half miles south of Norris Museum at night and was caused by the driver going to sleep. The vehicle which was badly damaged ran into the rock wall and finally came to rest astraddle of it.

A party consisting of the Superintendent of the Blind Association of Utah, Salt Lake City, and three blind members of the Association were reported overdue from a fishing trip on Yellowstone Lake the night of June 27. After considerable searching by rangers in the patrol boat, complicated by a severe storm, they were rescued the next day by Park Rangers Robert Murphy and Claude McClain and Seasonal Park Rangers Joseph Rapp and Ike Killingsworth at Flat Mountain Arm where they had reached shore and were marooned after the motor on their 16-foot boat failed and they were lost in the storm. They apparently were none the worse for their 25 hours out in the worst storm of the summer, facing rain and snow most of the time.

Deaths. LeClaire B. Flint, 66, for 16 years editor of the Livingston Enterprise, died at the home of a daughter in Fairfield, Connecticut, June 7. He wrote many fine editorials and articles on the park and always championed its causes. He moved from Livingston to Washington State in 1940.

Walter Styers, 62, who was employed as a carpenter for Haynes Inc., died at the Gardiner theater June 19 of a heart attack. Originally from Tom Miner Basin, he lived many years in Cinnabar Basin before moving to Gardiner two years ago. Burial was in the Gardiner Cemetery June 22.

Births. A son was born to Mixed Gang Foreman and Mrs. Lloyd R. Winkle at the Park Hospital in Livingston on June 2.

A son was stillborn June 27 at the Mammoth Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Moffat of Troy, New York. Mr. Moffat is a Civil Engineer with the U. S. Navy and they were visitors to the park.

Personnel. The following employees received promotions (indefinite) due to reallocation of their positions: David de L. Condon, Park Naturalist, from GS-11 to GS-12 June 9; Philip N. Wohlbrandt, Park Engineer (Civil), and Otto M. Brown, Chief Park Ranger, from GS-11 to GS-12 June 15; Frank E. Mattson from Landscape Architect, GS-11, Region Two Office, on indefinite assignment to Yellowstone, to Park Landscape Architect, GS-12, Yellowstone, June 21; Ellis E. Gabbert, Fiscal Accountant, GS-7, to Fiscal Accounting Assistant, GS-8; Willis Stanton, Purchasing Assistant, GS-7, to Supervising Purchasing Agent, GS-8; William C. Proper, Personnel Assistant, from GS-7 to GS-8; and James A French, Payroll Clerk, GS-4, to Personnel Clerk, GS-5, effective June 27.

Andrew A. Alley, Property Clerk, GS-4, resigned June 11 to engage in ranching near Sandpoint, Idaho. The position was filled June 13 by the promotion of Edward M. Schultz from Storekeeper (General), GS-3.

Charles L. Moore, Project Clerk, GS-4, was promoted to the position of Time, Leave and Payroll Supervisor, GS-5, effective June 17.

Melvin A. Thuring, Park Engineer (Civil), GS-9, departed June 3 for Wind Cave and Richard W. Ketchum and John A. Schmid arrived June 4 and 11, respectively, on transfer to Park Engineer (Civil), GS-9, Yellowstone. However, the transfers of these men as well as that of C. Gordon Cummings who departed May 28 for Teton, will not be effective until July 1.

Walter H. Kittams, Biologist, was on military leave June 11 through 25 at Buckley Field, Denver, Colorado, in connection with his commission with the U. S. Naval Reserve.

Seasonal appointments during the month included those of Wanda Messer, Clerk-Typist, GS-3, and Renee Olsen, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, on June 1; Lillian R. Allemn, Clerk-Stenographer, GS-3, June 14; Boyd H. Robertson, Storekeeper (General), GS-3, June 14; Bob Langenbach, Project Clerk, GS-4, June 10; Benjamin D. Hall and John N. Reeves, Camp Superintendents, Blister Rust Control, GS-6, June 7 and 1, respectively; and George D. Marler, Lowell G. Biddulph, Herbert T. Lystrup, Clarence C. Allemn, and Wayne F. Replogle, Park Naturalists,

GS-5. Also, a large number of seasonal rangers, naturalists and fire control aids were appointed during the month.

The following were employed by the Western Office of the Division of Design and Construction for assignment in Yellowstone for the summer: Richard L. Whitaker, Student Assistant Architect, June 11; David E. Geissinger, Student Assistant Landscape Architect, June 14; and Robert W. Collins, Student Assistant Engineer, June 21.

Miscellaneous. A meeting of Federal Employees Union Local 465 was held June 14 in the conference room at which time a report was given on the Montana State Convention of the National Federation of Federal Employees held at Missoula May 22 by members who had attended it.

The last monthly meeting for the season of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen June 14.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

In duplicate

Copy to Region Two

Files (2)

ekm